

PROPOSAL F2003-18

Existing regulation: Prince William Sound Area - Freshwater fish

[Fish traps are not currently a legal method of take.]

Proposed regulation: Definitions & Methods

§ __,27(i)(11)(xx) The following apply to Upper Copper River District subsistence freshwater fish permits:

(A) A fish trap may be used to harvest Arctic grayling, rainbow trout, and Dolly Varden from May 1 - May 31 in tributaries of the Copper River under Federal jurisdiction.

(B) A fish trap may be used to harvest ~~Arctic grayling, rainbow trout, and whitefish~~, Dolly Varden, and rainbow trout from August 31 - October 31 in tributaries of the Copper River under Federal jurisdiction.

(C) A permit holder may only operate a fish trap for three days during each season established in (A) and (B) of section (11)(xx). After three days the trap must be completely removed from the water.

Reason for changing the regulation: Fish traps were a customary and traditional means of harvesting freshwater fish in tributaries to the Copper River for the Ahtna people.

Effect of change on fish or shellfish populations: The freshwater fish permit requirement will allow the Federal Subsistence Board to set harvest limits and monitor harvests for individual water bodies. No harvest of salmon is permitted.

Effect of change on subsistence users: This change will provide additional opportunity for Federally qualified users to harvest freshwater fish in a way traditionally practiced by the Ahtna people.

Additional Information:

Proposed by: Copper River Native Association, Copper Center